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SUBJECT: Paul NOVIK, David MATIS, and Abraham BICK

1. Anti-Semitism is a wide-spread attitude in the Soviet Union. It has been estimated that about 90% of the non-Semitic Soviet population are anti-Semitic. The Soviet regime manipulates existing anti-Semitic attitudes for its own purposes, as is evidenced in Attachment A. This is an internal USSR broadcast made on 9 December 1959 and directed only to Soviet audiences.

2. Externally, the Soviet Union and the International Communist Movement pursue a program of concealing and denying the existence and the extent of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. The anti-Semitic attitude of the Soviet Union is becoming known in the Western World. The "Morning Freiheit", a pro-Communist Yiddish daily published in New York City, is the leading apologist for the Soviet Union and attempts to show not only that the Soviet Union is not anti-Semitic but that the Jewish people, both individually and collectively, are prospering, happy, and free under Communist rule. To lend credence to this theme, its Chief Editor, Paul NOVIK, its Foreign News Editor, David MATIS, and Abraham BICK, referred to in the "Morning Freiheit" as a "speaker, lecturer, and writer", made trips to the Soviet Union in 1958 and 1959.

3. In order to attract attention to his articles from the Soviet Union, the "Morning Freiheit" carried an announcement on 9 January 1959 as follows: "Read Paul NOVIK's letters from Warsaw; do not fail to read Paul NOVIK's letters from abroad, tell everybody." The "Morning Freiheit" published a series of 57 articles, or letters from or about NOVIK's travels, all designed to prove that the Soviet and Satellite nations are not anti-Semitic. The letters are very favorable to the Soviets and Satellites in other respects and on every occasion compare the United States unfavorably to the Communist nations. NOVIK also, in one article, covers the Twenty-First Communist Party Congress. NOVIK visited Israel prior to returning to the United States and while in Israel, wrote articles highly critical of the Israeli Government,

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

-2-

deploring clericalism in Israel and attacking the Israeli Reparation Agreement with West Germany. After returning to the United States, the subject wrote additional articles along the same line and gave several lectures which were announced in the "Morning Freiheit".

4. The "Morning Freiheit" announced David MATIS' trip to the Soviet Union and the Satellites and then carried a series of eight articles along the same line as those of NOVIK. The "Morning Freiheit" announced Abraham BICK's trip to the Soviet Union and Satellite countries. There followed a series of 37 articles either written by him from the Bloc area or covering his lectures and writings after returning to the United States. His articles are similar to those of NOVIK and MATIS. While in East Germany, he visited Gerhard EISLER which is mentioned in his article entitled "Jews in East Germany". While in Hamburg, he submitted an article that stated that anti-Semitism is now prevalent in West Germany and criticized BEN-GURION for dealing with the Bonn Government. He submitted an article from Italy en route to Israel in which he discussed the precarious political situation in Italy and criticized the present government. In Israel, he criticized the Israeli Government for being pro-Western and during a one-day stopover in Belgrad en route to Rumania, he criticized an Israeli diplomat whom he met in Belgrad for spreading false rumors "about anti-Semitism in Rumania".

5. The significance of the travel and writings of these three men is that their "on-the-spot" stories lend credence to the Communist line fraud by playing up the extremely small number of cases in which Jewish artists, scientists and other members of the intelligentsia were able to make some sort of a career in the Soviet Union, in order to creat the--false--impression that there is unlimited freedom of religious and cultural expression for Soviet Jews.

6. Solomon RABINOVICH is a correspondent for the "Morning Freiheit" in Moscow. NOVIK, according to one of his articles, met with RABINOVICH in Russia. We do not know what arrangement was made between NOVIK and RABINOVICH, however,

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

from 17 February 1959 to 6 January 1960, RABINOVICH submitted 18 articles to the "Morning Freiheit". In the 29 July 1959 issue of "Forward" (Yiddish anti-Communist daily published in New York) there appeared a lengthy article about a broadcast by Radio Moscow in which a "journalist of Jewish origin" severely attacked the "Forward" and "The New York Times" for spreading news about alleged Soviet anti-Semitism. The originator of this broadcast was Solomon RABINOVICH. In the broadcast RABINOVICH refuted vehemently the Western allegations and stated that assertions of anti-Semitism in the USSR are made by the "enemies of the Soviet Union", are pure fabrication and "do not contain even a grain of truth". He further described freedom of worship and indicated that only those localities lack synagogues where the Jews themselves are not interested in having them.

7. More details about the past of Solomon RABINOVICH are set out in a letter to the Editor of the "New York Times", dated 2 September 1959 written by a Merdecai GUTMAN who is now residing in Israel. According to this letter, Solomon RABINOVICH is writing his articles "under government restraint and expresses views that contradict his knowledge of the facts". The writer of the letter states that he has known Solomon RABINOVICH since 1951 when they were both incarcerated in the same Soviet labor camp in Verkuta. The writer further asserts that RABINOVICH was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for alleged espionage on behalf of the State of Israel. According to this letter, S. RABINOVICH remained in the labor camp until 1954 and was released along with many other survivors of the slave labor camps after the death of Stalin; he then returned to his family in Moscow. In 1957 RABINOVICH began publishing articles in the Communist press abroad "which tried to convey the impression that everything is fine with Soviet Jews and that they not only enjoy equal rights but are also given full opportunity for an independent Jewish cultural life". The writer asserts that "on the basis of my personal knowledge I know that Solomon RABINOVICH writes under government restraint. . . The reluctant testimony

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

of a man shattered by the Soviet Secret Police, tortured in its slave labor camps and fearful of persecution is hardly admissible testimony."

Attachments:

- A - An internal USSR broadcast made on 9 December 1959.**
- B - A brief background of Paul NOVIK, David MATIS, and Abraham BICK.**
- C - A brief summary on the articles submitted by or about Paul NOVIK.**
- D - Articles submitted by or about David MATIS.**
- E - A series of articles and lectures by or about Abraham BICK.**
- F - A list of articles by Solomon RABINOVICH.**

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